



National Infrastructure Protection Center

NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 14 February 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The New York Times reports Saudi Arabia has increased security around its oil fields and processing centers after discovering that employees of Saudi Aramco sympathetic to al Qaeda were discussing sabotage plans last summer; another indication that al Qaeda's leadership appears to be increasingly focused on economic targets, especially the oil industry. (See item [1](#))
- CNN reports British police Thursday arrested a Venezuelan man with a live grenade in his luggage soon after he arrived at Gatwick Airport, prompting the north terminal of Britain's second busiest airport to be evacuated. (See item [11](#))
- The National Infrastructure Protection Center has issued Information Bulletin 03-003, "Al Qaeda Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Threat and Basic Countermeasures." (See item [25](#))
- The New York Times reports many state and local governments say they are unprepared to deal with a major terrorist attack because of Washington's delay in providing them with the billions of dollars in emergency-response aid that was promised shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. (See item [26](#))
- CBS News reports a government test indicates that either mustard or sarin gas penetrated every major mask used by firefighters, except one used in only a handful of cities. (See item [27](#))
- Note from the Editor: As of 3 February, the NIPC Daily Open Source Report is being distributed through a new list service. While significant effort has been done to ensure smooth transition, problems are bound to occur. Please notify nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov with any comments, concerns, questions, or problems.
- Note from the Editor: Both the PDF and Word versions of the daily are posted to the NIPC Web Site at <http://www.nipc.gov/dailyreports/dailyindex.htm>

NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: [Physical](#): High, [Cyber](#): High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 13, New York Times* — **Pro-al Qaeda oil workers a sabotage risk for Saudis.** The government of Saudi Arabia has increased security around its oil fields and processing centers after the discovery that employees of the state-owned oil company sympathetic to al Qaeda were discussing sabotage plans late last summer, American and Saudi officials say. American intelligence officials discovered the conversations and alerted the Saudi authorities, who quickly arrested and interrogated the suspects, the officials added. The quiet thwarting of the potentially disastrous sabotage, disclosed in October by ABC News, is seen by officials here and in Washington as a model of cooperation for a relationship that has been under strain since the disclosure of the role of Saudis in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Still, the sabotage case and the response to it underscore the deep anxieties about the security of Saudi oil when a war with Iraq could make it more valuable, but also more vulnerable, than ever. **Intelligence officials say the discovery of al Qaeda sympathizers inside Saudi Aramco is part of a worrisome trend: al Qaeda's leadership appears to be increasingly focused on economic targets, especially the oil industry.**
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/13/international/middleeast/1_3SAUD.html

2. *February 12, Platts Global Energy News* — **Industry group defends law supporting power markets.** The Edison Electric Institute Wednesday defended a federal law that laid the groundwork for competitive wholesale power markets and criticized a recent study that blamed the law for many of the power industry's financial problems. **The American Public Power Association's (APPA) Feb 6 study blamed the Energy Policy Act of 1992 for undermining investor and consumer protections provided by the 1935 Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA).** APPA also said the 1992 law reduced consumer protections. "We take strong exception to the suggestion that changes to PUHCA embodied in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 have led to consumer abuses," EEI President Thomas Kuhn said. Kuhn said every electricity company is subject to the same level of federal securities oversight as every other publicly traded company and said the APPA report ignored the role of federal and state regulators in overseeing the industry. Kuhn said the industry's financial problems stem from excess generating capacity and reduced demand—supply and demand characteristics of any market—and not from the 1992 law.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/electricpower2.html>

3. *February 12, Business Wire* — **U.S. nuclear power plants set performance records for the 5th consecutive year. The nation's 103 operating reactors generated more power and raised capacity to the highest levels in history, according to Platts Nucleonics Week. U.S. nuclear power plants set output records for the 5th consecutive year generating nearly 812-million gross megawatt-hours (MWh) in 2002. This output exceeded an 89% average unit capacity factor and resulted in more than 780-million net MWh on the grid. "These record numbers demonstrate that the U.S. nuclear plants continue to increase their performance levels," said Margaret Ryan, editorial director of Platts Nuclear/Coal Group. "This illustrates a dramatic comeback from 1997 when regulatory outages sidelined 10% of U.S. nuclear plants and kept average capacity below 70%." More than 2.66-billion MWh of power were generated by 436 nuclear plants from around the globe.**

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=comtex_2003_02_12_bw_0000-2974-co-plattsontentSet=0

4. *February 12, Chattanooga Times/Free Press* — **Tennessee Valley Authority proposes electric-rate hike to offset coal cleanup.** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) plans to spend nearly as much to clean up its coal plants as it spent decades ago to build them. **TVA's aging fleet of 11 fossil plants. To pay for one of the costliest pollution control efforts by any utility in the country, TVA is proposing to raise residential power bills by 8.1 percent this fall — the biggest electrical rate hike for most consumers in two decades.** "We've tried to hold off any rate increase for as long as possible, but the soaring costs of complying with the Clean Air (Act) requirements for our coal plants will require some adjustment," TVA Director Bill Baxter said. "We want to be a leader in compliance with these standards. But that doesn't come for free." TVA officials project that from the 1970s to the end of this decade, the agency will have spent \$5.6 billion reducing sulfur, nitrogen oxides and other pollutants from its coal plants. In the current fiscal year, TVA boosted air pollution control spending by 22 percent to a record \$537 million, or \$1,234,483 a day. **Environmentalists said they welcome the agency's coal cleanup efforts, but they object to TVA putting the blame for its pending rate increase strictly on pollution control costs.** The EPA has sued TVA for continuing to operate older coal plants under less-stringent requirements grandfathered into law before the adoption of the 1977 Clean Air Act. In a lawsuit still pending in federal appellate court in Atlanta, TVA and the U.S. Department of Justice differ over whether major maintenance activities on older plants should require the plants to come under today's stricter standards. TVA officials have estimated it could cost another \$3 billion if EPA orders the utility's oldest plants to come up to the new source standards under the Clean Air Act.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cf m?id=3640754

5. *February 12, Reuters* — **U.S. LNG plant opening seen offset by gas supply cuts. A Maryland liquefied natural gas terminal reopening this spring will bring much-needed gas supplies to a tight U.S. market, but is unlikely to lower gas prices this year, energy analysts said on Wednesday. Dominion Resources' Cove Point facility — on the Chesapeake Bay near Baltimore — shut in the early 1980s due to poor demand, is part of a wider U.S. LNG revival triggered by a scramble in the energy industry to plug a growing hole this decade predicted by analysts as demand for the cleaner-burning fuel outpaces natural gas supplies. With output from old gas fields declining, Canadian exports**

sagging and flows to Mexico on the rise, analysts predict a struggle to meet future power plant and home heating demand, making LNG a likely winner for firms planning to bring the super-cooled gas shipped on special tankers to the U.S. Many analysts expect Cove Point, set to reopen in April or May, to add a critical "swing" supply to a market hampered by little spare gas stocks that has driven prices to a two-year high near \$6 per million British thermal units. **Though less than 2 percent of U.S. daily gas demand, Cove Point's daily "send-out" capacity, the amount of LNG regasified and put into pipelines, will add a small but potentially influential amount of gas during periods of high demand. Analysts predict LNG could rise from about 1 percent of total U.S. gas use today to 5 percent to 10 percent later in the decade.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/gasnews/gn_article.cfm?id=3640895

6. *February 12, Akron Beacon Journal* — **Port Clinton, Ohio-area nuclear power plant had cooling-system flaw. The Davis-Besse nuclear power plant for decades had a cooling system flaw that, under a worst-case scenario, could have led to a fuel core meltdown, plant owner FirstEnergy has told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The flaw, a wider-than-allowed gap in a sump strainer system, was discovered last September during an inspection by FirstEnergy and reported to the NRC in December. That gap could have allowed debris created during what is called a loss-of-coolant accident to clog an emergency cooling system, rendering it inoperable, the Akron utility's report to the NRC said. FirstEnergy is spending \$2.3 million to replace the old sump system with a larger, state of the art system. Because of the upgrade, the discovery of the flaw, while not trivial, is not an issue for the plant's restart, said Jack Grobe, an NRC official who heads an oversight panel looking into the troubled Oak Harbor power plant. He and other NRC officials met with FirstEnergy managers Tuesday at Camp Perry as part of a series of regular monthly meetings to get updates on progress being made to repair and refurbish Davis-Besse. The plant has been closed for nearly a year after the discovery that boric acid ate unprecedented cavities on top of the reactor's former vessel head. The NRC's analysis of the sump system flaw indicates a core meltdown would have been unlikely if the boric acid cavities on top of the old reactor head had burst and released coolant, Grobe said. But if there had been an accident that released a larger amount of coolant, the old sump design may not have been sufficient to protect the reactor, he said. The 68 other reactors in the United States that are similar in design to Davis-Besse must at least evaluate the sump problem, said David Lochbaum, nuclear expert with the Union of Concerned Scientists.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3639821

7. *February 12, BBC Monitoring Middle East* — **Russia starts feasibility study on second unit at Iranian nuclear power plant. Russia has begun technical studies on the construction of the second unit of the nuclear power plant in Iran. The Russian company AtomStroyExport announced yesterday: Based on the signed agreement, the company has begun technical studies on the feasibility of constructing a second unit at the Bushehr nuclear power plant. Russia is involved in the construction of the first unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant which has a 1,000-MW capacity. The power plant is to be commissioned by the end of next year [next Iranian year ends in March 2004]. Russian officials, including the president and the energy minister, have referred repeatedly to the peaceful nature of the nuclear cooperation between Iran and Russia, and stressed that it will continue.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/newsroom/nr_article.cfm?id=3641006

Chemical Sector

8. *February 11, Umatilla Chemical Depot News* — **Depot unlikely terrorist target, group says.** The idea of terrorists targeting any of the nation's depot sites appears unlikely, even after 9/11. There are just too many other easier targets to hit, said Amy Smithson, a senior associate with the Henry L. Stimson Center, a Washington, D.C., watchdog group devoted to international peace and security. "These chemical munition facilities are well-secured. I'd be more worried about a terrorist attack on a chemical manufacturing plant," she said. But just how plausible is it that some of the rockets could auto-ignite at any moment and blow up a storage igloo at one of the sites and endanger a community, as Army officials have routinely suggested? Or some freak incident, such as an earthquake or lightning strike, cause the munitions to blow? "The risks of general storage of chemical weapons are small compared to risks associated with other types of societal accidents," said Delbert Bunch, a former deputy director for the nation's chemical demilitarization program. **"There's a low probability of any explosion happening, but it's a low probability with high consequences,"** said Dennis Murphey, project administrator for Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. **"Our job is to do everything within our power to make sure the probability remains very, very low."**

Source: <http://www.umatilladepotnews.com/2003/0211-1.html>

Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *February 13, Inside the Pentagon* — **Defense Security Service to focus on industry education, training.** The Defense Department's new plan to divest background checks to the Office of Personnel Management should alleviate the backlog of cases that has plagued the military in recent years, according to a senior defense official. **If approved by Congress, the plan also would expand an education program at DSS for defense contractors to help them safeguard critical infrastructures, said Carol Haave, deputy assistant secretary of defense for security and information operations.** Haave recently surveyed her Pentagon staff and employees at the Defense Security Service, which she manages, to identify potential trouble spots. She received some 2,000 responses from DSS staffers pointing to the difficulties in managing personnel security investigations. The agency also provides security education within DOD and works with contractors and universities to safeguard classified information. **One problem identified in Haave's survey is the dual track personnel security investigations are on, she said. Asked to help DSS alleviate a backlog of background checks that once loomed as large as 500,000 cases (it's now about 200,000), OPM now conducts investigations parallel to DSS. But both agencies rely on different processing systems and report to separate management teams.** Perhaps even more cumbersome is the uneven distribution of work employees face, often because of changes in security policy, Haave said. Working "heroic" amounts of overtime, DSS investigative personnel are unable to anticipate how many cases they will have to juggle and are trying to manage it all using an antiquated information technology processing system. **"It was clear the agency was**

struggling," Haave said in a Feb. 7 interview. Reviewing the survey results "just led to a logical conclusion that one organization should manage it all."

Source: <http://ebird.dtic.mil/Feb2003/s20030213154010.html>

10. *February 13, Los Angeles Times* — **Two-war strategy faces test.** The mounting threat from North Korea, coming as a huge buildup continues in the Middle East for possible war against Iraq, has the Pentagon concerned that key parts of the military would be stretched thin if two wars erupted at the same time, defense officials and military experts say. **With airplanes and special forces troops also still tied up in Afghanistan, shortages in certain high-tech aircraft that would be needed in both North Korea and Iraq, and perhaps also precision munitions and some kinds of troops, mean a second-front war in Korea would take longer to win and entail more casualties, the officials and experts say.** Ultimately, the outcome of a two-front war would "not be in doubt," said Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "In gross numbers, the military can do what it is doing in the world today, plus taking on two problems," he said in an interview with The Times. "What's at risk is the timeline you'd like to do it on," Pace said. "Of course, anything that is longer will have more risk." In the case of a two-front war, the Pentagon's goal would be to focus first on the war in Iraq, and then to shift full attention to Korea when Baghdad was conquered, analysts say. The plan says that after the initial clash, U.S. forces in Korea would be augmented with troops and planes from Japan, Pacific Rim air bases, aircraft carriers, Hawaii and the U.S. mainland. Ultimately, about 690,000 U.S. troops would be called in for a fight that the Pentagon has estimated would last more than four months. **Yet that plan for the American buildup would be slowed by the U.S. military commitments not only in the Persian Gulf but also in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Djibouti. Between 8,000 and 10,000 U.S. troops are still in Afghanistan. Some elite Special Forces troops are deployed there, as well as many of the high-tech planes that would be in demand in Iraq and North Korea. With U.S. forces expected to reach 200,000 in the Persian Gulf by early March, there is already unmet demand for cargo planes, as well as special purpose reconnaissance, battle-management, intelligence and refueling planes, defense officials acknowledge.** Some experts believe that shortages in certain kinds of specialized infantry units, and combat support troops, could slow the American response.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-twowar13feb13.1.2074480.story?coll=la%2Dhome%2Dheadlines>

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Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

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Transportation Sector

11. *February 13, CNN* — **Live grenade found in London airport arrest.** With authorities on heightened alert for terrorist attacks, police Thursday arrested a Venezuelan man with a live grenade in his luggage soon after he arrived at Gatwick Airport, prompting the north

terminal of Britain's second busiest airport to be evacuated, authorities said. In the Gatwick incident, the 37-year-old man was arrested after his luggage was searched and the grenade was found. **He had arrived at the airport aboard a British Airways flight from Bogota, Colombia, via Caracas, Venezuela.** "The item has been examined by explosives officers, and it appears to be a live grenade," Scotland Yard said in a statement. The man was taken into custody under Britain's Terrorism Act and transferred to Metropolitan Police anti-terrorist detectives for questioning. Gatwick's north terminal remains closed, with incoming flights being diverted to the south terminal, which continues to operate normally. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/europe/02/13/london.airport/>

12. *February 13, Associated Press* — **Two arrested near Heathrow Airport. British police arrested two men Thursday near London's Heathrow airport,** where troops have been on patrol following a terrorist threat. In Parliament, lawmakers pressed the government to say more about the threat that led to the intensified security, but Prime Minister Tony Blair ruled out a full explanation. "We cannot start disclosing details of everything we know or may know," Blair told a news conference. "But it's important we take every precaution we can in order to keep people safe." **London's Metropolitan police said the two men were arrested in Hounslow, just east of the airport. They were being held at a police station in west London. Police did not say what led to the arrests.** Britain has deployed hundreds of soldiers at Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, over the last three days after police warned that al Qaeda might try attacking London during this week's Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha. **The Guardian newspaper reported Thursday that the security alert was sparked by "high-quality" intelligence that Islamic extremists had smuggled Sam-7 anti-aircraft missiles into Britain from Europe. Police refused to comment on the report, which said the intelligence was the most specific information of an imminent threat since the Sept. 11 attacks.** Source: http://www.austin360.com/aas/news/ap/ap_story.html/Intl/AP.V.0026.AP-Britain-Terror-.html

13. *February 13, Washington Post* — **Some pilots oppose gun rules.** An airline pilots group said Wednesday that the federal agency in charge of air security is setting unacceptable requirements for pilots to qualify to carry guns during flights. In a message to its members, the **Airline Pilots' Security Alliance said the requirements proposed by the Transportation Security Administration were "intrusive".** The group said the TSA wants each pilot who wants to carry a gun to submit to a wide-ranging background investigation, including interviews with neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers, an interview with a TSA psychiatrist, a second government psychological exam and a medical evaluation. **TSA spokesman Robert Johnson said the background-check requirements are similar to those that other federal law enforcement officers, including air marshals, undergo.** "It's reasonable to expect that putting a firearm in an aircraft environment would include some kind of prior evaluation," Johnson said. **Not all pilots oppose the TSA rules. John Mazor, a spokesman for the Air Line Pilots Association said his members support stringent investigations.** He said the association lobbied for extensive background checks and screening of its members. Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64766-2003Feb.12.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *February 13, Transportation Security Administration* — **Transportation Security Administration Joins U.S. Customs, Coast Guard, Maritime Administration and others in securing ports, cargo.** The Transportation Security Administration said Thursday at a news conference that of the nearly \$5 million in TSA grants to Louisiana ports on the Mississippi River, \$824,000 of them have been earmarked for risk assessments that will help local officials identify security vulnerabilities and develop plans to foil terrorism. Steven Froehlich, the National Manager for Stakeholder Relations, said that those mitigation plans also lay the foundation for ports to continually make improvements and to employ new security technologies. The TSA has awarded \$624,000 to the Port of South Louisiana and \$200,000 to the Port of Lake Charles to do risk assessments. Nationally, nearly \$5 million in grants have been awarded to 23 local ports for risk assessments. Those grants were among 79 totaling \$92.3 million awarded in June for port security. The five ports of South Louisiana start with Plaquemine on the Gulf of Mexico and stretch 254 miles up the Mississippi – to St. Bernard, New Orleans, South Louisiana and finally Baton Rouge. When combined, the port system is the world's largest in terms of tonnage with 462 million tons handled last year. Of that, some 260 million tons of cargo was shipped through a single port, the Port of South Louisiana, last year, making it the busiest in the United States and third busiest in the world. Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/tsa1103.htm>
15. *February 12, U.S. Department of Transportation* — **U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mineta Announces successful ITS operational test for intermodal freight.** On Wednesday, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced the completion of a test for a federally sponsored intermodal freight operation project that could mean cost savings and security benefits for future freight movements. The test was for a project formally known as the Electronic Supply Chain Manifest system (ESCM), jointly funded by the Department of Transportation's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the state of Illinois, with technical assistance from DOT's Office of Intermodalism. The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), formerly the ATA Foundation, designed, managed and analyzed the system. **The test incorporated technologies that allow positive identification of the person responsible for the cargo and tracking capabilities for cargo movement within transportation modes as well as from one mode to another. The two modes involved in this test were primarily trucking and aviation, but the technologies have potential for rail and marine applications as well.** More than 200 persons were enrolled in the system, representing almost 40 companies. The ESCM project began almost two years before Sept. 11, 2001, and many of the ESCM components are being considered for use in transportation security. **One of the more important findings of the project is that appropriately designed security systems can dramatically improve business processes. In the case of the ESCM system, cost savings per transaction ranged from \$1.50 to \$3.50 depending on the kind of business, with greater benefits expected when combined with other business management systems.** The operational test final report is available on the DOT's ITS website: <http://www.its.dot.gov>. Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fhwa0303.htm>
16. *February 12, General Accounting Office* — **Challenges facing the Coast Guard as it transitions to the new department.** On Wednesday, February 12, 2003, JayEtta Z. Hecker,

Director of Physical Infrastructure for the General Accounting Office (GAO) testified before the House Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, and Fisheries regarding the challenges facing the Coast Guard as it transitions to the Department of Homeland Security. GAO has conducted a number of reviews of the Coast Guard's missions and was asked to testify about the Coast Guard's implementation challenges in moving to the newly created Department. With its key roles in the nation's ports, waterways, and coastlines, the Coast Guard is an important part of enhanced homeland security efforts. But it also has non–security missions. **GAO has identified critical success factors for reorganizing and restructuring agencies, and its recent work in reviewing the Coast Guard has focused on challenges dealing with six of these factors – strategic planning, communications and partnership–building, performance management, human capital strategy, information management and technology, and acquisition management. The difficulty of meeting these challenges is compounded because the Coast Guard is not just moving to a new parent agency: it is also substantially reinventing itself because of its new security role.**

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-467T>

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Agriculture Sector

17. *February 13, Reuters* — **Poultry disease infects four more California farms. Exotic Newcastle disease has infected four more commercial poultry farms in California, the most reported in a single day since the outbreak began more than four months ago, the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) said on Thursday.** With the discovery of the disease in four more flocks, a total of 12 commercial poultry farms in the state have been infected, the USDA said.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N13114415>

18. *February 12, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Wisconsin agribusinesses urged to prepare for terror attack. Wisconsin farmers, and agribusinesses who sell agronomy supplies to them, are being urged to stay alert to a possible terrorist attack, which could be targeted at the nation's agricultural sector.** On Tuesday, the Wisconsin Fertilizer and Chemical Association sent out a notice to all of its members, that was first handed to them by the Agriculture Retailers Association in Washington, D.C., which states all retailers should take steps to enhance their security immediately in light of the recent 'increased chatter' among al Qaeda terrorists. **The notice suggested that those who manufacture, distribute, transport, or store hazardous chemicals be especially vigilant regarding the physical security of those chemicals. It also calls for companies and their personnel to reduce access points to a minimum required for continued operation; have an emergency response plan ready; and to let the appropriate authorities know that your facility is operating at a 'high' alert level.**

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=184&yr=2003>

19. *February 12, Indiana Ag Connection* — **USDA says nation's security level raises. The Department of Justice increased the nation's terrorist threat assessment level to "orange" last week, and the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) says increased security level and foreign animal disease (FAD) surveillance should be increased nationwide.** No potential FAD cases should be disregarded, the agency said. Potential hoaxes should be treated as

suspect incursions of FAD's until proven otherwise. Specific attention should be directed at livestock and poultry concentration points. Investigators and laboratory personnel should implement an appropriate level of personal protection when examining animals, carcasses, and submitted samples until potentially zoonotic diseases can be ruled out. Physical security on farms, livestock concentration points, and quarantine stations should be heightened. Limited animal movements and farm contacts should be kept to essential people for continued operations.

Source: <http://www.indianaagconnection.com/story--state.cfm?Id=942003>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

20. *February 13, Green Bay Press–Gazette* — **State hiring freeze endangers funds for water systems.** The Wisconsin state hiring freeze has jeopardized \$459,000 in federal funds earmarked for helping Wisconsin's public water systems assess their vulnerability to terrorist attack. "We will lose this if we don't use it, probably by April," said Don Swailes, drinking water quality section chief for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds target water systems serving populations between 3,300 and 100,000, and were authorized by the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. Swailes said Governor Jim Doyle's office has placed on hold the DNR's request to add a limited term "project employee" whose employment would end with the completion of the project and who would be paid from the federal funds, pending the governor's delivery of a new budget to the Legislature on Tuesday. "I don't know that we'll get the position, even though it really doesn't encumber the state, because it's a perceptual thing," Swailes said, adding that the agency may work around the hiring freeze by contracting for the work outside the agency.

Source: http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/news/archive/local_86599_96.shtml

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Public Health Sector

21. *February 13, Atlanta Journal Constitution* — **CDC focuses on highest risks.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with areas of the country considered "at highest risk" of attack, the agency's director said Wednesday. "We have taken extra steps in those locations to ensure that the medical system is prepared to deal with the consequences," Dr. Julie Gerberding said. The agency also has activated response teams that have been trained to deal with threats named last week by Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge: chemical weapons, botulism, and radioactive bombs. The team members, who were alerted several days before the code orange was made public Friday, have been told

not to leave Atlanta. None have been sent to other cities, she said. **Gerberding declined to say which areas of the country are at highest risk. The CDC declined to say how many people have been placed on alert. The teams would deploy if a state government asked for assistance. Or the federal government could direct them to do so under its emergency response plan, which was last used during the anthrax attacks in the fall of 2001.**

Source: <http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/news/0203/13tercdc.html>

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Government Sector

22. *February 13, New York Times* — Bin Laden tape may hint at attack, CIA says. The country's intelligence chief warned today that the latest taped message attributed to Osama bin Laden was an "exhortation to his followers," like statements made by the terrorist leader last year that were quickly followed by deadly attacks overseas. **"He's obviously exhorting them to do more," George J. Tenet, the director of central intelligence, told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "And whether this is a signal of impending attack or not is something we're looking at. I can only tell what the history is."** Tenet said that two previous messages attributed to bin Laden, on Oct. 6 and Nov. 12, were followed within days by terrorist strikes against American and other targets overseas. **"What he has said has often been followed by attacks, which I think corroborates everything that we're seeing in terms of raising the threat warning, in terms of the specific information that we had at our disposal last week," Tenet said.** In the message broadcast on Tuesday, the man believed to be bin Laden urged suicide attacks against the United States and "operations that cause so much harm to the enemy in the U.S. and Israel."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/13/politics/13TERR.html>

23. *February 13, Associated Press* — Sept. 11 commission casting wide net. The leaders of an independent commission investigating the 2001 terrorist attacks pledged Wednesday to cast a wide net in their probe of the causes, responses and lessons of Sept. 11. **Chairman Thomas H. Kean said the commission's early agenda includes examining the United States' international strategy against terrorism before 2001: its policy toward Afghanistan, its interactions with "crucial friends, such as Saudi Arabia," and its coordination with law enforcement in countries such as Germany. Other issues include the sharing of information among agencies of the U.S. government and White House handling of the crisis on Sept. 11.** Lee Hamilton, the commission's vice chairman, said another topic of inquiry, suggested by some key lawmakers, is the way Congress handles intelligence matters. **The law creating the commission listed several topics for it to explore, including intelligence, law enforcement, diplomacy, immigration, aviation and the flow of assets to terrorist organizations.** "We're going to follow wherever the trail leads," said Kean, a former New Jersey governor picked by President Bush to lead the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64178-2003Feb 12.html>

24. *February 12, Government Executive* — GOP, Dems fill slots on House homeland security panel. House Republicans and Democrats Wednesday filled out the 50-member House Select Homeland Security Committee, with Republicans choosing major committee chairmen while

Democrats chose a more inclusive roster. **Select Homeland Security Committee Chairman Christopher Cox, R-Calif., said Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., opted for an "all-star team" led by chairmen who already have a hand in homeland security issues. But Minority Leader Pelosi chose few of the Democrats' corresponding ranking members. Homeland Security ranking member Jim Turner, D-Texas, described his fellow Democratic members as a "distinguished cross section of our Caucus."** The panel's first order of business will be a technical corrections bill, which Cox vowed would "not be controversial." Before the August recess, Cox plans to have a bill on the floor to revise the Homeland Security Act, which last year created the Homeland Security Department. He has asked committee chairmen to submit their suggestions by the end of the month and plans to hold hearings next month to begin assembling the bill. As the committee gets up and running, Cox plans to ask for temporary funding to hire staff and tide the committee over until the House doles out committee budgets next month. Committee members will have access to classified material and will have to make arrangements to secure sensitive information. **On the Senate side, Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, is looking to rejigger Appropriations subcommittees once the fiscal 2003 budget is out of his hands. Governmental Affairs Committee Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, plans to fold homeland security issues into her jurisdiction. "We'll see how that shakes out," said Cox.** Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/021203cd2.htm>

25. *February 12, National Infrastructure Protection Center* — **The National Infrastructure Protection Center has issued Information Bulletin 03-003, "Al Qa'ida Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Threat and Basic Countermeasures". This communication provides critical infrastructure owners/operators suggested guidance on potential indicators of threats involving weapons of mass destruction and protective measures based on this heightened threat condition.** Presently, al Qa'ida and associated groups possess at least a crude capability to use chemical, biological, and radiological agents and devices in their attacks. **Several al Qa'ida-affiliated cells have attempted to carry out attacks in Europe with easily produced chemicals and biological toxins. While these attacks are best suited for assassinations and small-scale dispersal, they can potentially cause hundreds of casualties and widespread panic if used in multiple, simultaneous attacks.** The Chemical, Biological, Radiological Incident Handbook can be downloaded from the Central Intelligence Agency Public Interest Site at http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/cbr_handbook/cbrbook.htm
Source: [http://www.nipc.gov/publications/infobulletins/2003/ib03-003 .htm](http://www.nipc.gov/publications/infobulletins/2003/ib03-003.htm)

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *February 13, New York Times* — **Lack of attack readiness laid to financing delay by U.S.** Many state and local governments say they are unprepared to deal with a major terrorist attack because of Washington's delay in providing them with billions of dollars in emergency-response aid that was promised shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. **The promised aid — a \$3.5 billion package that President Bush announced more than a year ago, most of it intended to provide equipment and training to local police and fire departments — has been tied up on Capitol Hill since fall, due to Congress's failure to complete a 2003**

budget. While a budget that includes something close to the \$3.5 billion was finally approved today by Congressional negotiators, it will take months for most of the money to reach state and local governments. **Because of the delay, many large police and fire departments that expected to receive the extra federal aid last year say they have been forced to postpone or cancel the purchase of protective suits, biochemical detectors and communications equipment that would be used to respond to an attack that included weapons of mass destruction. Some cities say they have delayed counterterrorism training sessions for police officers and firefighters.** The concerns of state and local governments have grown keener since Friday, when the Bush administration raised the national terrorism alert to "high," warning that al Qaeda might try to use chemical or biological weapons against American targets.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/13/politics/13HOME.html>

27. February 13, CBS News — Gas mask failure stuns firefighters. The firefighters facing new and urgent warnings of a possible terror attack are well versed in the life and death skill of applying their gas masks, which they have 60 seconds to do. **In a government test developed after Sept. 11, either mustard or sarin gas penetrated every major mask, except one used in only a handful of cities.** When he received the report, the chief of the Arlington Virginia Fire Department, Ed Plaughner, says he was, "devastated – literally devastated." Plaughner led the Sept. 11 response at the Pentagon. Even though his rescue teams presumed there might be poison gas, they rushed in anyway, certain their gear would protect them. That confidence is gone. **"The failure of the test is a very, very big deal for us, because it means we have to re-evaluate and re-ramp the way that we attack an incident like this," says Plaughner.** Fire departments all over America, especially in places where terrorists might attack, face a tough choice. They can subject their rescue teams to a higher level of risk, which is dangerous, or replace or retrofit their masks, which is expensive. **According to Harold Shaitburger, the chief of the International Association of Firefighters, it would cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Shaitburger says the federal government must step in because local governments can't afford new equipment.** It could be years before masks that can handle poison gas reach the teams that need them. But today rescue teams on high alert for the next attack could face the unheard of order to hold back.



Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/02/13/eveningnews/main54_0566.shtml

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

Nothing to report.

[Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 www.securityfocus.com
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: WORM_KLEZ.H Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	137 (netbios-ns), 80 (http), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 53 (domain), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 445 (microsoft-ds), 139 (netbios-ssn), 21 (ftp), 4662 (???), 25 (smtp) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

28. *February 13, New York Times* — **Duct tape and plastic sheeting provide solace, if not security.** Duct tape and plastic sheeting can be useful for chores around the house, but experts are uncertain how well they might protect against chemical, biological or "dirty bomb" attacks. **Most of the advice dispensed by the Bush administration on how to prepare for possible terrorist attacks was generic and common-sensical, they said, just as applicable to a hurricane, a snowstorm or any other unexpected emergency. Stock up several days' worth of water and canned foods. Put together a first-aid kit. Keep handy flashlights and a battery-powered radio.** Randall J. Larsen, director of the Anser Institute for Homeland Security, a nonprofit research group in Arlington, Va., said there was inherent value simply in urging people to make preparations. "I think psychologically preparing the public is something we've been deficient at," Larsen said. **But he was less impressed with the administration's recipe for protecting against a cloud of deadly germs or chemicals: sealing a room with plastic sheeting and duct tape. Dr. Monica Schoch-Spana, a senior fellow at the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies, said such a "safe room" would be of no help against a biological attack, because terrorists would probably release the pathogens in secret. "You won't be tipped off that something's going to happen," Schoch-Spana said. "You wouldn't have time to get that in place."** Even in cases where an attack is known, like the detonation of a bomb that spews out radioactive particles, experts said such measures would be useless unless people could be quickly informed of an attack.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/13/national/13PROT.html>

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NIPC Products &Contact Information

The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability, and law enforcement investigation and response entity. The NIPC provides timely warnings of international threats, comprehensive analysis and law enforcement investigation and response. The NIPC provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the NIPC web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following NIPC products:

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NIPC Publications – NIPC Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

NIPC Daily Reports Archive – Access past NIPC Daily Reports

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Suggestions: 202-234-1129

Distribution Information Send mail to nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov for more information.

Contact NIPC

To report any incidents or to request information from NIPC, contact the NIPC Watch at nipc.watch@fbi.gov or call 202-323-3204.

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